

Appl. No. 10/621,709
Atty. Docket No. 9330
Amdt. dated July 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 10, 2005
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

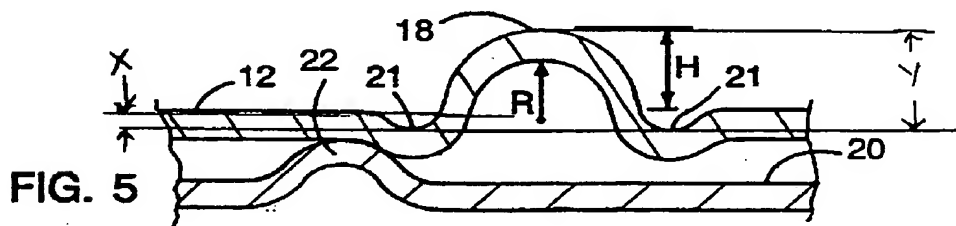
Claim Status

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102(b) Over Campion et al.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Campion et al. (US 5,346,468). Campion et al. discloses a tampon applicator having embossed rings (18) with slight depressions (21) formed on either side of the embossed rings. In the Office Action the depressions (21) are considered equivalent to the applicants claimed indentation region while the embossed rings (18) are considered equivalent to the applicants claimed raised portion.

With the construction proffered in the Office Action, Campion et al. discloses a structure very different from that claimed by the applicants. The depth dimension X of the depressions (21) is to be taken from the outer surface of the insertion member 12 to the lowest point of the indentation region. See page 5, lines 29-31 of the specification. The height dimension Y is to be taken from the base to the highest point of the individual raised portion. See page 6, lines 8-11 of the specification. As can be seen from the reproduced Figure 5 of Campion et al. below, Campion et al. clearly teaches a structure in which Y is considerably larger than X. Such a structure does not anticipate claims 1-20 of the applicants invention which require Y to be less than X.



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Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 102. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to distinguish the invention from the applied reference. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of Claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

By



Signature

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